

(a) whether China has developed a herbal drug for curing cerebral Malaria;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to import this drug for the treatment of Malaria patients in our country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Yes, A herb *Artemisia annua* had been used for many centuries in Chinese traditional medicine as a treatment for fever and malaria. In 1971, Chinese scientists isolated from the leafy portions of the plant the substance responsible for its reputed medical action. This compound is called *Ginghaosu*. The compound has been used successfully in several thousand malaria patients in China including those with both chloroquin sensitive and chloroquin resistant strains of *P.falciparum*. It acts rapidly in restoring to consciousness to comatose patients with cerebral malaria.

(c) and (d). Although this drug is commercialized in China it has not yet passed safety evaluation tests and regulatory toxicity clearance from Drugs Controller of India.

[Translation]

Percentage of Acid in 'Gutka'

6359. SHRI GAYAPRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that higher percentage of acid is found in 'Gutka';

(b) whether the 90 percent of the people consuming the 'gutka' are likely to become the victims of fatal diseases like mouth cancer, T.B. and Jaundice etc.; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). Gutka is a tobacco based product. Available brands of Gutka carry the Statutory declaration "Chewing of tobacco is injurious to Health".

[English]

Photo Dynamic Therapy for the Treatment of Cancer

6360. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Photo Dynamic Therapy is used for the treatment of cancer in some developed countries of the world;

(b) if so, whether it is being used in India also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to extend this therapy in India also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d). Photodynamic therapy is an experimental modality for treatment of cancer. This is not being used in India.